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St. George's Hall,



April 20th, 23d and 24th 1876.

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OFFICERS AND STOCKHOLDERS

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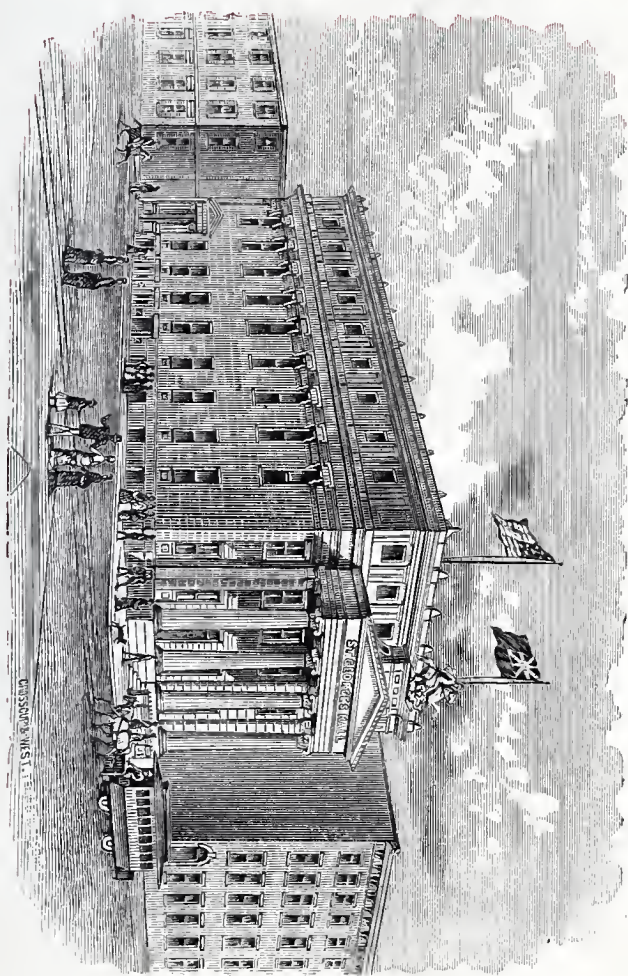
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REPORT
OF THE
OPENING DEDICATORY EXERCISES

OF
 St.  George's  Hall,

S. W. Corner Thirteenth and Arch Streets,

April 20th, 23d and 24th, 1876,

TOGETHER WITH THE

ORATION DELIVERED BY MACGREGOR J. MITCHESON, ESQ.;
SERMON BY REV. W. RUDDER, D. D.; AND POEM
BY REV. W. NEWTON, D. D.; ALSO,

A LIST OF THE OFFICERS AND STOCKHOLDERS.

PHILADELPHIA:
INQUIRER BOOK AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE, 304 CHESTNUT STREET,
1876.

RESOLUTION:

At a stated meeting of the Society of "The Sons of St. George, established at Philadelphia, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress," held at the St. George's Hall, April 24th, 1876, it was, on motion,

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to have the whole proceedings connected with the opening and dedication of St. George's Hall printed.

The chair appointed the following Committee: LEWIS THOMPSON, WILLIAM WATERALL, W. H. LUCAS, SAMUEL LEES and JOHN J. DOVEY. The President, W. MASSEY, and the Secretary, W. UNDERDOWN, on motion, were added to the Committee,

Society of the Sons of St. George.

OFFICERS FOR 1876.

WILLIAM MASSEY, *President.*

WILLIAM WATERALL, *Vice-President.*

SAMUEL LEES, *Treasurer.*

WILLIAM UNDERDOWN, *Secretary.*

ISAAC C. UNDERDOWN, *Assistant Secretary.*

Trustees :

THOMAS THOMPSON.		LEWIS THOMPSON.
JOHN LUCAS.		

Stewards :

WM. H. LUCAS.		THOS. M. THOMPSON.
JOSEPH LEES.		JOHN LEES.
WILLIAM BEAL.		WM. HARDACRE.
HENRY JONES.		CHARLES DAY.

Counsellors :

M. J. MITCHESON.		JOHN G. KERSHAW.
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Physicians :

DR. C. W. HORNOR.		DR. W. W. BURNELL.
DR. A. HEWSON.		

Chaplains :

REV. W. SUDDARDS, D. D.		REV. E. W. APPLETON, D. D.
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Messenger :

ISAAC SMITH.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS.

WILLIAM MASSEY, *President.*
LEWIS THOMPSON, *Vice-President.*
JOHN LUCAS, *Treasurer.*
WILLIAM UNDERDOWN, *Secretary.*
M. J. MITCHESON, *Counsellor.*

Directors :

WM. MASSEY.	THOS. M. THOMPSON.
LEWIS THOMPSON.	SAMUEL LEES.
JOHN LUCAS.	CHARLES DAY.
WILLIAM H. LUCAS.	M. J. MITCHESON.
WILLIAM WATERALL.	JOSEPH LEES.
WILLIAM UNDERDOWN.	

Building Committee :

WILLIAM MASSEY.	LEWIS THOMPSON.
JOHN LUCAS.	

*At the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders, held
May 24th, 1876, the following*

RESOLUTIONS

were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the faithful and invaluable services of LEWIS THOMPSON, Esq., as Chairman of the Building Committee, justly merits the warmest thanks of the St. George's Hall Association, and they hereby tender the same with a sincere hope that he will long be spared to look with honest pride on this *complete*, substantial and beautiful Hall, the construction of which he watched with zealous care from foundation to capstone, making it literally a labor of love.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Stockholders be and they are hereby tendered to the Board of Directors, for the successful and highly satisfactory discharge of their duties during the first year of our official existence, and congratulate them upon the erection of our beautiful and commodious Hall.

List of Stockholders.

Allen, Joseph	Elliott, F. G.
Allen, Joseph, Jr.	Elliott, William
Allen, William H.	
Allen, James T.	Foster, Joseph R.
Allen, George W.	Foster, J. H.
Allen, Thomas	Fox, S. T.
Allen, John	
Appleton, Rev. E. W., D. D.	Gadsden, J. W.
	Gartside, Benjamin
Buckley, Edward	Gould, John H.
Burnell, W. W., M. D.	Gibson, A. C.
Branson, Thomas	
Branson, George	Hibbitt, John
Bailey, Harwin P.	Homer, Benjamin
Bates & Coates	Homer, Thomas
Blitz, Sig. Anton	Hall, James M.
Birnley, John	Hopper, William
Beal, William	Hay, David
Bullock, W. B.	Hardacre, William
	Harrison, Samuel A.
Coates, George M.	Hooley, B. & Son
Collis, S. C.	
Crump, George	Jones, William
Croft, Samuel	Jordan, J. T.
Cartwright, Henry	Jones, William
Day, Charles	Kershaw, John
Dawson, John	Kershaw, John G.
Dobson, J. & J.	Kortright, Charles E. K.
Danby, Joseph	
Dovey, John J.	Lucas, John
Dallett, Gillies	Lucas, William H.

Lees, Samuel
 Lees, Joseph
 Lees, Mrs. Jane
 Lees, John
 Lynex, Richard
 Lawson, John L.
 Le Boutillier, Charles
 Le Boutillier, Edward
 Le Boutillier, Robert

Massey, William
 Massey, Mrs. Fanny M.
 Massey, Margaret R.
 Massey, Martha M.
 Massey, Walter S.
 Massey, Helen F.
 Mitcheson, MacGregor J.
 Mellor, Joshua
 Mason, James S.

Newton, Rev. Richard, D. D.
 Newton, Rev. William, D. D.

Price, Thomas W.

Rhodes, Thomas P.
 Rushton, William, Jr.
 Robinson, W. Massey

Society of the Sons of St. George
 Suddards, Rev. W., D. D.

Swallow, Jonathan
 Simpson, W. A.
 Spencer, Charles
 Salt, James
 Smith, J. F.
 Simpson, George
 Saville, T.

Thompson, Thomas
 Thompson, Lewis
 Thompson, Thomas M.
 Thompson, George W.
 Thompson, Lewis A.
 Thompson, John
 Thompson, Albert F.
 Thompson, Mrs. Thomas
 Thornton, John

Underdown, William

Wilkins, W. T.
 Waterall, William
 Waterall, Mrs. W.
 Wright, Samuel
 Wright, Richard
 Weightman, W.
 Wood, George
 Wood, Thomas
 Wood, William
 Windrim, James H.

REPORT
OF THE
OPENING AND DEDICATORY EXERCISES
OF
St. George's Hall.

Our Society having felt for a long time the importance of securing larger accommodations for its increasing membership, and at the same time a permanent location, at a meeting held April 23d, 1873, the subject was fully discussed, and a Committee appointed, consisting of Messrs. WILLIAM MASSEY, THOMAS THOMPSON, JOHN LUCAS, SAMUEL LEES and CHARLES DAY, to take the subject into consideration and see if a desirable property could be procured for the Society's use.

The Committee held frequent meetings, but no suitable property could be obtained until 1875. In February last, the Committee learned that the property at the southwest corner of Thirteenth and Arch streets, known as the Newkirk mansion, was for sale. After duly examining the property, and finding it could be purchased at a reasonable price, the Committee called a meeting of the officers, who agreed with the Committee and resolved to call a meeting of the Society. The meeting was held February 25th, 1875. Although the weather was exceedingly stormy, such was the interest in the subject that a very full

meeting was obtained, and after hearing a full report from the Committee, it was unanimously resolved to purchase the property by forming an Association, and making the shares of stock \$50. Before the meeting closed, about \$70,000 were subscribed, which included \$25,000 subscribed by the Society. The former Committee were discharged and the officers of the Society were appointed a Committee, with power to act until the Association was formed. This Committee appointed a sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. LEWIS THOMPSON, Mr. WM. MASSEY, and Mr. JOHN LUCAS, who immediately made the purchase and acted for the general Committee until the 24th of May, when a meeting of the Stockholders was held, and a Board of Directors elected.

A charter was soon after obtained by Mr. Mitcheson, the Solicitor, and the contract for the building of the hall was awarded to Mr. GEORGE WATSON, under the superintendence of Mr. JAMES H. WINDRIM, Architect, June 15th, 1875, and was successfully completed, April 1st, 1876, to the entire satisfaction of the Building Committee and all concerned. The frescoing and ornamentation were executed by Mr. JOHN GIBSON, the whole reflecting great credit upon the Architect, Builder, Artist and Building Committee.

The following extract from one of our city journals, gives a general outline of the Hall and its decorations :

“The marble vestibule and hallway, which divide the first floor in the centre the full length of the building, present a chaste and beautiful decorative display. In the seven panels which flank the parlors are represented seven of the nine muses, the size of life, each with her appropriate symbol—Urania, Thalia, Melpomene, Euterpe, Polyhymnia and Terpsichore.

"In the first parlor, front, is a large fresco, representing the scene from the history of ancient Rome where Cornelia, an illustrious Roman matron, mother of the famous Tribunes, the Gracchi, is telling her visitor, who is showing her jewels, that her two boys are *her* only jewels.

"In the second parlor is another fine piece of fresco art, the subject of which is from mythology—Aurora rising from the sea in her golden chariot, drawn by the celestial horses Lampus and Phæton, 'and with rosy fingers raising the veil of night and shedding light upon the world.' These frescos cost \$2,000, and were already in the Newkirk mansion when the Society purchased it.

"The fresco paintings on the ceiling of the main hall consist of two allegorical groups, symbolical of England and America. The first represents Love and Peace, or England and America holding a wreath of olive branches, and above these two figures sits Britannia, with outspread arms, blessing the union. The other subject represents Charity and Industry, typifying the object of the Society, and the power under Providence that gives the means and the willingness to alleviate distress, and above these two figures sits Columbia, whose outstretched arms would seem to offer protection and shelter to the oppressed of the earth.

"Surrounding these subjects is a rich bordering of ornamental design in delicate tints, enriched with gold, with six medallion portraits in white on a gold ground, of Hon. James Allen, Gov. Robert Morris, Joseph Sill, Bishop White, John Vaughn, and the first president of the Society, Rev. Richard Peters. In each of the four corners of the large allegories are figures of Charity, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice, and on three remaining panels and the cove and cornice are ornamental pencilings in keeping with the style of architecture, and elaborately finished in gold. The walls are of a rich, warm tint, which harmonizes with the polished scagliola columns and pilasters, and the whole presents a combination of almost dazzling beauty."

Description of the building by the Architect, Mr. JAS. H. WINDRIM :

"The St. George's Hall " is situated in one of the most eligible portions of the city—fronting upon two

principal thoroughfares--upon Arch ~~way~~ 60 feet, and upon Thirteenth street 132 feet, including the portico. It is, upon the exterior, of white marble from the base to the roof cornice.

The main front is composed of one order of Grecian Ionic columns, four in number, with their wall Antal, forming an imposing portico, a study from the approach to the Temple of Minerva, one of the three contiguous temples of Eréchtheus-Minerva, Polias and Pandrosus-at-Athens, is fully enriched in the details of its capitals and cornice, with its pediment in elevation 44 feet from the pavement, to be surmounted by a bronze metal equestrian statue of "St. George and the Dragon."

Above the cornice and entablature of the Order, which is continuous around the building, an attic-stage completes the elevation of the structure, in height 55 feet to the cornice at the eaves.

The basement of the building contains minor offices, kitchen, larder, &c., and the appliances for heating. Upon the first floor offices and parlors and the committee rooms for "The Relief Committee of the Society." Upon the principal floor is the Main Hall and Assembly Room of the Society, 50 feet 6 inches in width, by 100 feet in depth, in wall measurements, approached by a handsome and commodious main staircase, with two others of lesser capacity, thus making convenient and ample means for ingress and egress to this apartment.

At one end a handsome alcove forms the stage and rostrum, accompanied upon each side by private rooms,

This Hall is richly finished with scagliola columns and pilasters, manufactured by Mr. JAMES T. ALLEN, as variegated marbles, the ornamentation and detail are in strict harmony with the exterior design of the structure, Grecian Ionic, and fully enriched, in stucco, in relief. Above the entablature of the Order, the sides are coved to the ceiling, which is in height 29 feet, through which cove the attic stage windows add to the enrichment of the apartment, and form a most satisfactory means of lighting from above, and of valuable assistance in its thorough ventilation.

The walls are ornamented in fresco, and upon the ceiling two beautiful allegorical paintings form the field of the design. For description see page 12.

The Hall is handsomely furnished with arm chairs and sofa seats, made in walnut wood with panelings of birdeye maple, enriched with etchings.

The building is of the most substantial construction, and replete with all conveniences to make it practical as a building, individual to the society and applicable to such further service as its direction might elect.

The building was formerly a city residence with well built street fronts and portico of marble, with cornices and detail of wood, it was extended 63 feet additional in depth, the wood work removed and increased in elevation by the attic stage in marble over the old and new, as one structure.

The re-arrangement and erection of the building was under the direction of an active and zealous Committee, and to the material aid of Mr. Lewis Thompson, its chairman, whose judgment in the artistic as well as practical issues, throughout the pro-

gress of the work, from its commencement to completion, is a recognition which the architect concedes inseparable from any credit attached to the success of the work.

A short time previous to the completion of the Hall the ladies expressed a desire to co-operate with the members of the Society in their noble undertaking, and do their part in adding to the opening festivities; a Committee was formed, consisting of Mrs. LEWIS THOMPSON, Mrs. JOHN LUCAS, Mrs. WILLIAM WATERALL, and Mrs. JOSEPH LEES; by whose efforts the large sum of \$684 was collected, with which amount they purchased two beautiful silk flags, one English, the other American, a large number of bunting flags, the President's chair, and furniture for the officers' room; a further account of which will appear in the

OPENING PROGRAMME

Of Thursday Evening, April 20th, 1876.

PART FIRST.

Overture, "Lustspiel," SCHUBERT ORCHESTRA.
Introduction, ... WM. MASSEY, ESQ., President.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The officers of the Society of the Sons of St. George have invited you here this evening for the purpose of viewing this spacious Hall and Building, and in order that the members and their families and friends shall have an opportunity of mingling together in social intercourse.

The formal dedication of the Hall will take place on St. George's day, the 23d inst., with appropriate religious exercises, and I regard it as a happy coincidence that that day will fall on Sunday.

In the succeeding exercises appointed for the evening I shall again have occasion to address you, and for the present conclude by saying that it gives me much pleasure to welcome you here to-night, and especially to observe the presence of so large a number of ladies in the audience.

Presentation of Flags and Chair on behalf of the

Ladies, by LEWIS THOMPSON, ESQ.

MR. PRESIDENT:

I stand before you, this evening, at the request of the ladies, wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of the Society of the Sons of Saint George in this city.

I feel honored by the compliment they have paid me, and such is my regard for them that I fear I am not able to do them justice; many of them know my inability to make a speech, and the troubles of a bashful man, but dear woman, the soul and grace of charity, is always ready to help those who cannot help themselves, and they kindly come forward to tell me what to say for them, for which they have my sincere thanks.

I will now read you the preamble and resolutions passed by the ladies of the Flag Committee, which I feel sure you will all heartily endorse.

"The ladies of Philadelphia interested in the Society of the Sons of St. George, in which during the last century their ancestors have been, and at the

present eventful time their fathers, husbands and sons are, so earnestly engaged in a great work of Christian charity, desiring to manifest their kindly sympathy and encouragement towards the propagation of the good work, decided to present to this Society a set of flags and decorations, compatible with the elegance and beauty of the new Hall, which through the magnanimous and effective management of its members, stands unrivaled in Philadelphia; therefore be it

“Resolved, As lady residents of Philadelphia, we justly appreciate the liberality and patriotism that has led its members to offer to the citizens a Hall unsurpassed in beauty of design, and combining every comfort for public purposes, while within its walls the poor and needy from the shores of England will throng to seek advice and assistance from its generous patrons.

“Recognizing the high standard of its benevolent work, we all desire to express our cordial and earnest co-operation in these extended acts of charity, hoping through a continuance of the same, many may yet be heard to bless the Society that has generously cared for them when strangers in a strange land.

“May we offer an earnest prayer that in presenting these flags of the two greatest Christian nations of the world, they may ever wave united in peace, love and charity.

“The ladies also desire to state that, through the liberality of contributors, they have been enabled to add to their gift a chair for the use of the President, cherishing the hope that in all future time the honored

head of this Society may with liberal hand and honest heart dispense its bounties, reflecting the good deeds of his worthy predecessors."

And last, but not least, I have the honor of presenting on behalf one of the noble hearted daughters of St. George, Mrs. Joseph Lees, this beautiful set of silverware to be placed in the steward's room for the use of the officers of the Society.

I wish this duty had fallen into abler hands, but I feel relieved from the necessity of making a speech for the ladies, from the fact that they have so well and gracefully spoken for themselves. The resolutions you have heard so thoroughly indicate that the ladies fully appreciate and are in sympathy with your benevolent work, and the sentiments expressed are so beautiful and appropriate that I shall not make a vain attempt to add to them. It only remains for me to hand over these generous gifts from the fair givers, with the hope that they will always be guarded with honored and worthy hands.

Ere I resume my seat, as I glance around this beautiful hall and see so many of the fair daughters of St. George before me, I am constrained to ask in the language of the poet—

"Is there a heart that never loved,
Or felt dear woman's sigh?
Is there a heart can mark unmoved
Dear woman's tearful eye?
O bear him to some distant shore,
Or solitary cell,
Where naught but savage monsters roar,
And beasts would deign to dwell,"

Acceptance of the same on behalf of the Society of the Sons
of St George, by . WM. MASSEY, Esq., President.

LADIES :

On behalf of the Society of the Sons of St. George, of which I have the honor to be President, I gratefully accept the gifts your thoughtful kindness has provided for the decoration of our new Hall on the first night of its occupancy.

From the inception of the enterprise, until the present time, you have manifested an active interest in its progress, and now, in the bestowal of these beautiful emblems of the sovereignty of two great nations, together with the chair for the use of the President of the Society, you have earned our gratitude, and I tender to you our heartfelt thanks.

These flags, adorning the portrait of the Queen of Great Britain—the model woman who possesses the admiration of her subjects and of all enlightened nations—will ever remind us that in our deeds of charity we shall have your sympathy and co-operation ; and let us hope that circumstances may never arise when they shall not wave as they do now in friendly and peaceful concert.

The present incumbent of the chair desires modestly and in all humility to acknowledge the compliment conveyed in the words of the presentation address, and trusts that it may always be occupied by no one less worthy than himself.

This Society, founded nearly one hundred and four years ago by those who were born on English soil, and continued by them and others of English parentage, is established in this city to foster the efforts of such

persons as coming to our shores from the Mother Country, are compelled by circumstances to seek our aid. Charity is the motto of the Society, and as we, to-night, open for your inspection this imposing edifice, I look forward to a long career of usefulness, and venture to express the hope that the good work which it is now *our* duty and privilege to perform, may be taken up and continued by our children and *their* children unto the end. .

Ladies, I again thank you for these splendid gifts, and permit me, in conclusion, to wish that under the blessing of the Divine Ruler of Nations, the future may be eventful in prosperity and happiness to each and all.

National Airs, ... SCHUBERT ORCHESTRA.

The President, in a few fitting remarks, introduced Mr. MAC-GREGOR J. MITCHESON, who delivered the following ORATION :—

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

Upon this bright vernal day, when all nature seemed to rejoice that winter was at an end, the chilling winds lulled, a genial sun warming all vegetation into vigorous life, and the sweet songsters of the forest and the field—filled with gladness—cheerily built their little nests ; here, in the peaceful city which Penn founded ; where the ever-memorable Declaration of Independence was written and promulgated by the heroic men of a century ago ; where the first American Congress met and held its sessions ; where the immortal WASHINGTON chose, for a time, to live ; and where the Constitution of the United States was adopted by the people ; here the *first* Anglo-American Hall, of its distinctive character and object, in all the Union, has been completed,

And here, under the blended folds of the two greatest flags that float o'er land and sea ; with allegorical pictures of Britannia and America in harmonious juxta position above us ; with Sully's invaluable life-portrait of her Majesty, the Queen, before us, and medallions of many dear departed brethren all around us :—under the influence, we trust, of that “ *Charity* ” which never faileth ; that “ *Prudence* ” which ever moderates ; that “ *Fortitude* ” which ever ennobles ; and that “ *Justice* ” which is from the throne of the Eternal ;* the St. George's Hall Association—for the first time—throws wide open its portals and welcomes to this Hall of beneficence and mercy, the “ Society of the Sons of St. George, established at Philadelphia, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress.”

Sympathy is a God-like virtue. It dips, as it were, from the well-springs of our better nature, to refresh our fainting fellow man. It warms his heart. It stimulates his brain. It nerves his arm. It strengthens his limbs. And he who was prostrated by adversity, and ready to perish, is—by the magic of its influence, by the electricity which it imparts—invigorated to new activities, and enabled to renew the duties of life with a self-reliant, manly resolution to overcome all misfortunes.

Indeed, it is a divinely appointed order that man shall be a minister of mercy to man ; and so long as he is true to himself and to this Heaven appointed mission of fellowship to his brother man, so long may

*Allegorical figures of Charity, Prudence, Fortitude and Justice are conspicuously frescoed upon the ceiling of the Hall.

he realize the ineffably delightful solace and satisfaction of relieving human suffering, and, at the same time, of benefiting himself.

Truly, has the great dramatist said :

“The quality of mercy is twice blessed ; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.”

A greater than Shakspeare inspired this thought, perhaps, when he declared in ringing prose the stronger sentiment :

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

A century and more ago there were strong bonds of sympathy among the men of this New World:—and they were needed. Their unhappy and indifferent King was thought to have none for them. His impositions of different kinds aroused the entreaties and expostulations of his subjects here. They petitioned the Crown for a redress of their grievances ; and for eleven weary years they waited, remonstrated and strove in vain. But it was not all in vain. It mollified their hearts to alleviate suffering, while it strengthened them to endure it. It taught them that men were mutually related to each other : that they were, in a measure, dependent upon each other : and that, in the great battle of life, no one in the ranks or above them, could arrogate to himself absolute independence of his neighbour.

But they had no thought of alienation or separation from the Crown of England, until all hope of relief and justice from the then reigning monarch had been utterly extinguished.

The men of that period were true representatives of their great prototype, William Penn, the founder of this province. They were men of character, of energy, of power. They combined the *fortiter in re* with the *suaviter in modo*. And, while possessing a most delicate sensitiveness for the wrongs and privations of others, they had the firm resolve to remedy them and their own—if they could.

Doubtless, they had studied his tersely expressed views upon the theory of government, as set forth in the preface of his work upon that subject: "I know," wrote he, "what is said by the several admirers of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy, which are the rule of one, of a few, and of many, and are the three ideas of government when men discourse on that subject. But I choose to solve the controversy with this small distinction, and it belongs to all three: Any government is free to the people under it, whatever be the frame, where the laws rule and the people are a party to those laws: and more than this is tyranny, oligarchy and confusion."

Doubtless, too, they had deeply imprinted on their minds his quaint and vigorous apothegm:—"The saying is that he who gives to the poor lends to the Lord; but it may be said, not improperly, the Lord lends to us to give to the poor."

So, that of those who had the hearts to found "the Society of the Sons of St. George, established at Philadelphia for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in distress," upon St. George's day, the 23d of April, A. D. 1772, there were not wanting the men who had also the courage to participate in establishing

the form of government, the centennial commemoration of which is to be celebrated by over forty millions of grateful Americans during the current year.

I will not dwell upon the events in the Colonial history of these United States or of Pennsylvania alone, that led the heroic and large-hearted men of the period to establish a society for the relief of human suffering among their fellow-countrymen in this the leading city of the Colonies ; and, four years later, to take part in establishing the new form of government, whereby, according to their adopted theory, "the people are a party to the laws." Not that they meant to limit their good deeds to those who happened merely to be able to boast an interest in Magna Charta and its framers. But they drew a natural line of demarcation around the objects of their bounty; it embraced the unfortunate ones from their own, their native land."

Auld Scotia's sons had led the way in this fraternal undertaking in A. D. 1749.

The Pennsylvania Hospital for the relief of the sick and miserable was founded in A. D. 1755.

The American Philosophical Society had been chartered by the Penns in A. D. 1769.

In A. D. 1772, John Kearsley, M. D., to his honor be it spoken, founded the grand old Christ Church Hospital.

These were the leading institutions of the period in this city.

From the archives of this now venerable Society, we learn that the Rev. Richard Peters, D. D., was the

first president; Mr. Robert Morris, afterwards the illustrious, patriotic and self-denying financier of the Revolution, was the first vice-president; Mr. Daniel Rundle, a well known, honored name among our early families, was the first treasurer; and Richard Peters, Jr., Esq., afterwards the renowned Judge Peters, was the first secretary. Judge Peters was, too, as you are aware, the financial secretary of the Revolution; and at his picturesque and hospitable mansion, known as "Belmont,"* General Washington and others of the leading men of the Revolution were frequent guests. Among the other distinguished members of the Society of that year were his Excellency, Richard Penn, Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, who became president the following year; the Rev. William White, afterwards the Protestant Episcopal Bishop of this State, and the ecclesiastical father of so many of the best clergymen in our land; the talented Richard Bache; the Hon. Thomas Willing; besides numerous others, whose descendants are this day among our most esteemed fellow citizens. Sometime afterwards his Excellency, Benjamin Franklin, became a member of the Society. Indeed, it is stated, in so many words, in a stirring appeal for aid, issued in A. D. 1773, and, doubtless, as an incentive to the confidence of those appealed to, that "all the members are gentlemen of property and character."

But their work of charity and mercy began in ill-starred times. History records that "at their anniversary dinner upon St. George's day, 1775, the company were thrown into consternation at the reception

*It overlooks the Schuylkill river in Fairmount Park.

of the news of the battle of Lexington. Robert Morris, Esq., was the presiding officer on that occasion, and his presence could not control the agitation of the members. Many withdrew with precipitation from the table, and gloom and despondency all at once succeeded to festivity and rejoicing."

The following summary and significant minute appears upon the record of a special meeting held on March 4th, 1776: "WHEREAS, Dr. ——— has shown himself inimical to the liberties of this country, and thereby rendered himself unworthy to be a member of this Society, *Resolved*, unanimously, that the said Dr. ——— be expelled and no more considered a member of this Society; and the Secretary is directed to publish this minute in the public newspapers of this city."

The same spirit actuated the members of this Society at the breaking out of our internecine strife on April 19th, 1861. They met, passed resolutions condemning the insurrection; pledging their support to the government in its declared effort to maintain the Union and Constitution of the United States; omitting their annual dinner upon the 23d of April, and appropriating the banqueting fund towards relieving the families of those who volunteered for service in the tented field.* When the war was over, they were equally prompt to tender the right hand to those who laid down their arms after a valiant struggle; and to obliterate the terrible remembrances of that event—and all the more so in view of its paralyzing effect upon the South.

*See resolutions upon the Society's minutes of April 23d, A. D., 1861

Time would fail to speak of the many faithful, patriotic and devoted men who have been from time to time officers, stewards and members of your Society. I say "patriotic" men, for, be it borne in mind that no one is eligible for membership of the St. George's Society, who is not by adoption or by birth a citizen of the United States: and it is not too much, perhaps, to say that he who, from choice, leaves all the endearing ties of his boyhood's home in "Merrie England" to come to this land of liberty, to spend the remainder of his lifetime, manifests, by that act, an appreciation of its institutions, which is a very fair guarantee of his becoming a good, true and loyal citizen. Who, for instance, in our day, more highly deserved or received the grateful homage of his adopted countrymen than the late Hon. Edward Baker, colonel of the Seventy-first Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers,—the scholar, statesman, United States Senator and hero, who, when the clarion notes of war rang through the land, marshaled and led his regiment of gallant men to the defence of the flag of the Union, and fell at their head in the fearful encounter at Ball's Bluff, upon the banks of the freezing Potomac!—and, when he was thus sacrificed, no corporation, municipal or otherwise, or even political association, from Maine to California, was in advance of your Society in offering fitting tributes of honor to his memory.*

It is among the recollections of my childhood that I was told by loving parents of their having listened with lively interest to the earnest pulpit appeals of

*See resolutions of October, A. D., 1861.

the late Rev. Dr. Joseph Pillmore, who—(with long and copious silvery locks falling from his honored head, and tears of affectionate and sympathetic regard streaming from his eyes)—never failed to awaken or secure attention from his crowds of auditors. This “Good Old Joseph Pillmore,” as he was usually styled, was for nearly five and thirty years an active and valued member of this Society; and, before going to his eternal rest, in A. D. 1825, devised to it one-half of his residuary estate, amounting to the handsome sum of \$8162.52, giving the other half towards the support of the Protestant Episcopate in the State of Pennsylvania.

The object of your Society, from which the St. George's Hall Association is but an outgrowth, is fittingly expressed in its title. It is for the *advice* and assistance of Englishmen in distress. Sometimes *friendly* advice; “A word in season—how good is it!” Sometimes *business* advice;—the wisdom of experience, which nothing but age can yield. Sometimes *professional* advice;—*medical*, sometimes, when the cold hand of sickness comes over them in a land distant from their home. Sometimes *legal* advice;—when the unfortunate stranger is in the toils of crafty, treacherous, extortionate or unconscionable men; and needs the protection or vindication of the law. Sometimes *spiritual* advice;—when the soul needs the solace of the man of God.

The “*assistance*” is as varied as the needs of man demand. Sometimes it is to aid him to go, and, perhaps, to take a family to the far West to settle. Sometimes to get him employment, or to give him

food, clothing and shelter here. Sometimes to send the aged man back to his native land.* Sometimes to get the victim of persecution and oppression out of prison;† to vindicate the rights of childhood against the cruelties of adults;‡—and women against the neglect, desertion, &c., of husbands.§

The only prerequisite for a generous outpouring of the bounty of the Society is that the applicant shall be an Englishman in distress, worthy of its aid.

How much relief has been thus given during the one hundred and four years of the Society's active life, no statistics can approximately express. It is not to be weighed with dollars and cents. The anguish of an innocent, friendless stranger, of good birth, arraigned, for instance, on a charge of murder, upon circumstantial evidence alone, thrown into prison and kept there for weeks before his case was known of by the Society, cannot be assuaged by money: but you may fancy the joy of his heart when he is acquitted of the false and reckless charge, through the instrumentality of your Society.|| And yet, when you are told that in a single quarter of a year, over five hundred persons had received pecuniary aid;—that lodging had been paid for almost an equal number during the same period;—and that meals, groceries, coal and medicine had been furnished to as many

**In re* Eldridge, April, A. D., 1876, is the latest case.

†The Commonwealth *vs.* Ward: 5 prosecutions. The Commonwealth *vs.* E. T., April, A. D., 1876.

‡The Commonwealth *vs.* D'Atalie: the case of the "Young Zephyr;" Smith's Estate.

§Newth's case: Gross' case: Caruther's case, A. D., 1876.

||The Commonwealth *vs.* Harper, in the Court of Oyer and Terminer of Philadelphia, May 1st, 1875.

more during the same period; some idea may be formed of the executive ability and appropriation of time required of the officers and stewards of the Society, from year to year, as the work goes on.

Since the foundation of the Society, nearly eighteen hundred members have been numbered upon its rolls. It now has a membership of about seven hundred—a larger list than ever before; and it is no sinecure, as may be imagined, to serve as one of its stewards or almoners for a single quarter. Yet some of these gentlemen have been active members of the Society for ten, twenty, thirty and even forty years; as in the case of the Hon. James Allen, the late President of the Society. Nay more, the catalogue sometimes shows among the honorary, active or associate members, that the beneficence of the father is emulated by his son. Thus in January, 1792, Edward Thornton, Esq., an esteemed appointee in this country under his Majesty's civil service, was elected an honorary member. For years past Sir Edward Thornton, K. C. B., her Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, at Washington,—his distinguished and honored son,—has also been an honorary member, and a generous contributor to its fund for relief.

This day marks a new era in the history of this Society. You enter for the first time this spacious, lordly and convenient Hall, constructed mainly for benevolent uses and in the interest of those whom the changes and chances of this mortal life may require to visit it. Where is its equal in America (except for size) save in the national halls of legislation at the

Capital? I had almost styled it *a temple of charity*. And yet, among the ancient heathen temples, I remember of reading of none such; nor of seeing--amid the scenes of the Imperial City, in her day the mistress of the world--at Pompeii, at Pæstum, at Baïæ, or even at queenly Athens, with all her former culture and refinement,--any one of those classic architectural designs, whose grand proportions and exquisite finish have withstood to a greater or less degree for thousands of years the ravages of enemies, and the still more destructive waste of time,--any structure with this inscription. The Palace of the Cæsars may be seen in its decay:--theatres and amphitheatres, of vast dimensions and capacity, remain. Deserted temples, reared to the false gods of the heathen, still endure, as beacons on a dark highway. Even the immense and splendid coliseum stands, where thousands of martyrs died in agony to satisfy the merciless exactions of the arena, the fury of the half famished beasts, an emperor's callousness, and the barbarous cruelty of the Roman people. But it remained for a *Christian* age, for the disciples of Him who went about doing good, to rear such edifices as may mitigate or assuage the sufferings of the unfortunate and the distressed.

And the members of your Society enter this Hall for the first time, attended by your mothers, wives, sisters and daughters; indicating thereby that they go hand in hand with you in all that you can do in such a pure and blessed work:--and their patriotic and expressive contribution upon this occasion cannot fail to act as an incentive to untiring effort on your part in the good cause.

London is full of such Societies, and though our City of Brotherly Love cannot vie with the great metropolis in population or in the number of her charitable establishments, we yet strive to be not unworthy or unmindful of the noble examples she has set us in this direction.

The entrance to this Hall involves new duties. It imposes new responsibilities upon all the members of the Society to make their work worthy of the Association and worthy of themselves.

We appeal to you, then, by the record of the past ;---by the sweet remembrance of your native land ;---by the good example of the illustrious projectors of the Society, and of your predecessors in membership ;---by the unspeakable comfort which your benefactions have brought to thousands of bleeding hearts ; by the permanent prosperity which has enured to many of your beneficiaries, rendering them valuable citizens, and able to co-operate with yourselves ;---and, above all, by the blessed inducements of Him who exhorted to Christian charity in that sublime picture of the eternal and glorious reward of those who could be told on the day of final account, "I was a stranger and ye took me in," we appeal to you, and, through you, to every native born Englishman, or his immediate descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to add to the efficiency and value of this Society ;—to enable its officers and stewards to continue to disburse discreetly, and far more extensively than ever before, your and their contributions for the relief of your and their unfortunate fellow-countrymen, from time to time in our rapidly growing city ;—and,

finally, by liberal and judicious bequests of their estates, in the last wills and testaments of those whose exertions as enterprising business men have been crowned with ample fortunes, so to endow the Society, that they may still be doing good when slumbering in their last resting place on earth.

Who has not been struck with the poet's measurement of time :

“ We live in deeds, not years ; in thoughts,
Not breaths ;
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart throbs : He most lives,
Who thinks most ;
Feels the noblest, acts the best.”*

Brethren of the Society of the Sons of St. George, we welcome you, and those most dear to you, with the most cordial hospitality of our hearts, to the St. George's Hall :—and we pray that Heaven's blessing may attend your labours in it.

At the conclusion of Mr. MITCHESON'S Oration, “ God Save the Queen ” was given, with fine effect, by the Orchestra and audience—the whole audience rising.

* *Bailey's Festus.*

and
reply!

PART SECOND.

"Star Spangled Banner," . . . ORCHESTRA and AUDIENCE.

Duet, ... "*Army and Navy*," COOK.

Messrs. HENSLER and SAYNOR.

Alto Solo, ... "*Bliss Forever Past*," BALFE.

Miss CARRIE LONG.

Piano Solo, ... "*Rondo Capricciosa*," . . . MENDELSSOHN.

Signor ALFREDO BARILI.

Bass Solo, ... "*Simon, the Cellarer*," . . . HATTON.

Mr. T. E. HARKINS.

Soprano Solo, ... "*The Spring-time is here*," . . . MATTEI.

Mrs. H. T. HARDING.

Tenor Solo, ... "*Non e Ver*," MATTEI.

Mr. HENSLER.

Galop, ... SCHUBERT ORCHESTRA.

PART THIRD.

Duet, . . . " *When I know that thou art near me,* " . . . ABT.

Mrs. H. T. HARDING and Mr. T. E. HARKINS.

Bass Solo, . . . " *Alone in the Desert,* " . . . Mr. H. SAYNOR.

Soprano Solo, ... " *I due Foscari,* " VERDI.

Mrs. H. T. HARDING.

Quartet, ... " *Good Night,* " FLOTOW.

Mrs. H. T. HARDING.

Miss CARRIE LONG.

Mr. J. W. HENSLER,

Mr. T. E. HARKINS.

The Saint George's Hall Association and the Society of the Sons of Saint George are grateful to the following Artists, who have kindly offered their services for the occasion :

Mrs. H. T. HARDING, *Soprano*.

Miss CARRIE LONG, *Alto*.

Mr. J. W. HENSLER, *Tenor*.

Mr. HARRY SAYNOR, *Baritone*.

Mr. T. E. HARKINS, *Basso*.

Signor ALFREDO BARILI, *Pianist*.

Prof. HENRY I. KEELEY, *Accompanist*,

SCHUBERT ORCHESTRA.

Sunday Evening, April 23d, 1876.

SERVICE OF PRAISE.

The officiating clergy in their clerical robes and officers of the Society assembled in the Committee room, and at seven and one-half o'clock formed in procession and walked up the main stairway to the seats reserved for them upon the platform, and in front thereof; the whole service was very impressive and will be long remembered by all present. The following extract is from one of our city journals :

“ Yesterday being St. George's Day a service of praise was held in the evening at the new St. George's Hall, corner of Thirteenth and Arch streets, to celebrate its opening, and in commemoration of the one hundred and fourth anniversary of the Society of the Sons of St. George.

“ The doors were opened at half-past seven o'clock, and in a very few minutes every available spot was occupied by the fortunate possessors of tickets of admission. The Hall was decorated with the banners placed there last Thursday evening, at the rear of the platform, on each side of the full length portrait of her Majesty, Queen Victoria, presenting a very attractive appearance. On either side of the pulpit desk, were stands filled with choice flowers.

“ Professor D. D. WOOD presided at the organ, and the singing was by the fine choir from St. Stephen's P. E. Church.

“ The service was commenced with the anthem ‘ Benedictus Qui Venit,’ in B flat, by Gounod, after which the evening prayer to the versicles was read by Rev. Dr. W. SUDDARDS, the tenth selection of Psalms by Rev. E. W. APPLETON, followed by the ‘ Gloria in Excelsis,’ by the choir.

“The first lesson, from the eighth chapter of Deuteronomy, was read by Rev. H. PALETHORP HAY, D. D., followed by the ‘Cantate Domino,’ in F, by Sir John Goss, and the second lesson from First Corinthians xiii, was read by Rev. W. N. McVICKAR.

“After the ‘Benedic Anima Mea,’ in E, by D. D. WOOD, the Apostles’ Creed and prayers were read by Revs. T. F. DAVIES, D. D., and E. A. FOGGO, D. D.

The Rev. Mr. PHILLIPS announced the following hymn, composed expressly for the occasion by one of the members of the Society :

H Y M N .

COMPOSED FOR THE OCCASION.

Words by J. E. MINOT.

Tune—“OLD HUNDRED.”

Oh ! God of life, and peace, and love,
Look down with mercy from above ;
Incline, O Lord, Thy gracious ear,
To us, Thy humble servants here.

We pray that Thou wilt bless this place,
And fill it with Thy heavenly grace,
That we in all our acts may prove,
A Christian’s sympathising love.

When grief or pain shall lay her hand
Upon a brother from our land,
May we with ready help repair,
And prove Thy providential care.

Bless, Lord, the sovereign of our Isle,
May peace and love around her smile ;
And may this land we live in, be
Blest with the brave, the good, the free.

After which the Sermon was preached by Rev. WILLIAM RUDDER, D. D., Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia.

S E R M O N.

"The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens ; and His kingdom ruleth over all." "God is the Judge : He putteth down one, and setteth up another." Ps. ciii. 19, lxxv. 7.

I use these words rather as a motto for my discourse than as sharply defining the lines within which its thought is to run. And yet the thought of the words underlies the thought of the discourse. It may be well then, at the very beginning, to draw out and exhibit their meaning.

"God," we are told, "hath prepared His throne." He possesses universal dominion ; He is the Judge of men, and the disposer of events. God, therefore, is not merely "a stream of tendency," nor "a power making for righteousness ;" He is not "the pantheistic universe," nor yet "humanity;" but He is a Personal Sovereign. Moreover, as He reigns, so He rules and judges, "putting down one, and setting up another." He has a purpose in the world, and the great drama of history is its acting out. This is the broad general truth which David and Asaph put before us in the text.

I need not say that, under this teaching, this truth applies to each individual human being, and to each individual human life. "Mankind" is but the aggregate of the individuals that make up the race. That God, as we are sometimes told he does, should con-

sider and care for the whole, and yet overlook or neglect the parts, is not only contradictory to every rational conception of Deity, but to every teaching of Scripture, and every fact of the natural world. In nature each subordinate process moves forward perfect in itself, each tributary part stands rounded and complete. The development of the blade is as minutely ruled as the filling of the ear. Each descending drop of the departing storm is as perfectly rounded and polished and illuminated, as is the wide and glowing arch ablaze with colour of which it forms a part. But, on the other hand, as God's government is over every individual of the race, so, by an equally natural, and, moreover, by a moral consequence, His providence is over all the race itself, and over each and all of its constituent parts. This is, first of all, a natural consequence—for we cannot conceive of God as considering and ruling the units, and yet disregarding or neglecting the whole sum of them, or the minor aggregations which go to make up that sum. If it is a token of God's infinite perfection that each minutest part stands before Him unobscured by what we call its littleness or unimportance, and carries upon it the impress of His perfection, whether the scale of it be that of an atom or of a world, whether it be the enamelled wing of an insect or the rounded nature of a seraph, so it is equally a part of the divine perfection that God, naturally and morally, delights in the finished perfection of the *whole as such*, and intends now and always, as at the beginning, that each and every fact and thing which He has created or ordained shall, *as a whole*, be perfect in itself, and in

its kind—the races and the race as much as the individual man; and, moreover, that His purpose, if only we do not defeat it, works forward forever and unfailingly to this consummate end. And as this follows by a natural, so—admitting a moral government at all—it follows by a moral consequence, for as the moral quality of the individual affects the condition of the race, so the moral condition of the race reacts upon the individual, influencing his character and life. God, therefore, cannot be a moral ruler, exercising a moral government over the world, and ignore, or be unconcerned in, the moral development or influence or destiny of any particular race or people, or of mankind.

Take these thoughts and bind them into connection with another thought which is essential in the very idea of a moral government, viz :—that God does not work directly to His purposes in history, but through the uncompelled action of the free wills of His human creatures—that while He adapts men and races, by original constitution, to certain labours and results, and surrounds them with the conditions favourable thereto, He still leaves each creature, and each race, to the doing of its own work, and the accomplishment of its own destiny; combine these thoughts, and we are brought to the threshold of our subject this evening. A brief study of the character, the work, and the destiny of one of the great peoples of the world—the great mother-race to which we, whether as Englishmen or Americans, belong. Let us, however, rest here for a moment.

Gathered in this place this evening, as Englishmen or the descendants of Englishmen, for a certain re-

ligious dedication of this Hall of "The Sons of St. George"—a charitable organization of Englishmen, and for Englishmen—our thoughts naturally turn to that far-off island-home which for more than twelve hundred years has been the seat of the English people, and which they have made the radiating centre of their vast and world-wide influence and power. I do not know how or why it is, but the thought of England comes to me, and, so I am apt to suppose, to others besides myself, with the annual coming of the spring. Whether it be that at this season the lovely land is wont to appear at its very best; that as fair matrons are said to have their "beauty-days," so these days of spring and early summer are the "beauty-days" of our fair mother across the sea; or whether the poets, through so many centuries, have, year by year, so enwreathed her with garlands of spring blossoms, that the very flowers seem especially to belong to her, and to suggest her as matter of course; whatever be the reason I know not, but, at this season the thought of England comes back unfailingly to my mind and heart, while, through the thin mists of memory, are revealed the tender blue of its sky, its dark green woods, its shaven lawns, its daisied fields, its stately halls and humble homes, its whole garden scenery, as the landscape of a dream. So here, to-day, and on this occasion, we seem, with easy imagination, to stand once more on English soil. The historic hills and fields, in their beauty and their glory, are around us. The fragrance of the opening hawthorn from miles of whitening hedges, fills the air. And as we look up into the glowing purity of its morning

sky, the whole heavens are flooded with melody—the songs of soaring larks mounting upward, like choirs of winged angels, into the unseen, singing, as it were, the victory, and accompanying the triumph, of their risen and ascending Lord.*

Under the influence of thoughts and feelings like these, let us now turn to the subject proposed. Perhaps there will come out of it suggestions of duty which should come home to all of us. That subject is—THE CHARACTER, THE WORK, AND THE DESTINY OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE—using this term primarily of the English nation, but not confining it to this sense ; covering with it, in fact, in the larger view, all the descendants in all the world, from the common stock. This consideration of the character and work of this people may perhaps open to us somewhat the vista of its destiny.

First then, let us observe the characteristic traits which, especially in their combination, mark and distinguish this race.

First among these I notice a certain depth, solidity, robustness, and vigor of original nature. The English people seem to have derived these qualities first of all, from *race*, and then to have had them confirmed and strengthened by the circumstances of their earlier life. A branch of the great German family—those savage and war-like Germans whom the Romans found it so difficult to conquer, if indeed, in view of the result, they can be said ever really to have conquered them,—the strong vitality and native rug-

* This sermon was preached between Easter and Ascension day.

gedness of the original stock was increased in these English people by the geographical and other conditions among which, in the first instance, their lot was cast. The first Englishmen, you will remember, were not born in England.* If we would find them, we must go to that almost water-encircled peninsula of Jutland which stretches its scarred arm upward between the cold and tempestuous North and Baltic seas, lashed by their waves on either side, and swept by all their storms. In the early tribes inhabiting these sterile coasts, winning a poor subsistence from the unwilling soil, pursuing it in the swamps and woods, dragging it from the stormy and treacherous seas, but all the while deriving toughness of fibre, tenacity of purpose, and a certain reckless daring from the very hardness and ferocity of the elements with which they had to battle continually for very life—we have the beginnings and the types of their descendants, the Englishmen of a thousand years, who, as they delight to sing, have during that period “braved the battle and the breeze.” We do not know the causes which led to the first migration of the three English tribes from the peninsula which had been so long their home. Doubtless, many particular causes contributed to this,—the pressure of an ever increasing population, the desire for a wider territory and more generous fields, the mere love of adventure and the fierce joy of war. But beyond all these, there was probably a deeper and more subtle influence at work. There are epochs in the providential

*See Freeman's *Norman Conquest of England*, Vol. I, Appendix A.

ordering of the world, and the diffusion of mankind, when a profound spirit of unrest seems to penetrate a particular race or people, and to send them forth to the finding of their designed and appropriate place, or to the doing of their foreordained and proper work. This seems to have been the case with the German people at this time. And so while the middle and southern tribes were sweeping downward upon the Roman Empire, already decayed to its very base, the English of the peninsula were impelled westward across the sea. They carried with them into their new work all the daring, the persistent energy, the ferocity which marked their race. "Foes are they," sang a Roman poet of the time, "fierce beyond other foes, and as cunning as they are fierce. The sea is their school of war, and the storm their friend. They are sea-wolves that live on the pillage of the world." And the long conflicts in Britain after they had first landed on its shores down to the time of the Conqueror—a period of six hundred years—did but confirm and intensify these original traits. Subsequent admixtures of blood may have modified, but they did not change, this radical character of the race. The ~~Northerners~~ themselves were but kinsmen after all.* Although settled upon

*Without doubt the invasion of the Danes in the tenth and eleventh centuries effected a renewal or revival of the original institutions, social condition and general spirit of the Anglo-Saxon people, who, possibly, as has been claimed (Laing, *Heimskringla*, Preliminary Dissertation) had somewhat fallen from their first estate. But the inhabitants of Denmark and Norway and those of Jutland were, after all, branches of the same original stock; and if it be true that the old spirit of the latter, and the character of their institutions had deteriorated, if not wholly

lands which from their pirate boats they had seized in Gaul, they were, as their name imports, Northmen still, with the old roar of the ocean and the tempest in their tempers and their tongues, and the salt of the sea tingling in their veins.

Now out of this original nature so conditioned and developed, came necessarily several particular traits of character.

First of all, a spirit of restless enterprize and daring adventure. The little peninsula of Jutland, which had been the cradle of their infant life, could now, as we have seen, no longer contain them, and they broke away from the narrow school of the neighbouring ocean where they had been disciplined into daring, self-reliance, and strength. Their fleets traversed in every direction the western seas, carrying fear and desolation to the shores of Britain, and the neighbouring coasts of Gaul. Restless, active, adventurous upon the water, they were not less so upon the land. Dominant everywhere and always they must be, or

perished, under the influence of Roman Christianity (a point it would be very difficult to prove); and that the incoming of the Danes was the "spark" that rekindled the old life of the peninsula; still the "spark" would have died out had it not fallen upon suitable fuel. The language which Laing applies exclusively to the Danes may with greater truth be applied to the combined families of the one original race. "All that men hope for of good government and future improvement in their physical and moral condition, all that civilized men enjoy at this day of civil, religious and political liberty, the British constitution, representative legislature, the trial by jury, security of property, freedom of mind and person, the influence of public opinion over the conduct of public affairs, the Reformation, the liberty of the press, the spirit of the age, all that is or has been of value to man in modern times as a member of society, either in Euorpe or in the New World, may be traced to the spark left burning upon our shores by those northern barbarians."

they will die. And so year by year, and foot by foot, they spread inward from the sea, from the east, from the south, and from the west, the native tribes gradually fading out from before them, or being gradually absorbed, until at length, after many years and many wars, they became firmly rooted in their new possessions, and remained masters of the soil. Do we not see the whole subsequent history of this English people, in its goodness and its badness, prefigured and prophesied in the comparatively narrow lines and faint colours of these opening centuries of their historic life?

But taking a wider view—wider as regards both race and time—I notice as a second marked trait in the character of this people, a persistent and uncompromising demand always for substance, reality, and truth. They will not put up with equivocations, and will give no quarter to pretences and make-believes. This too comes out of the original quality, the force and robustness of the inherited nature. It runs red in their blood. It is a common observation that it is always your feeble soul that sinks naturally and so easily into cunning, insincerity, and falsehood. The strong, not more by a moral than by a natural law, are always the true. It is the real man that cannot be unreal, the brave that cannot be tempted or frightened into a lie. And so of this English people. The solidity, vigour, and force of their nature demand in all things, and above all things, reality and truth.

We see it in their architecture ;—where no mere beauty is allowed to stand in the way of the designed and *practical use* ; in its *solidity*, making alliance with time, and giving notice that it is intended to last ; in

its *truthfulness*, being in all its parts simply what it professes to be, and disdaining always the cheap and vulgar ostentation of shams.

We may see it in their speech. "The practical power of the English," says an American writer of authority, "rests on their national sincerity. They are blunt in saying what they think, sparing in promises, and they require plain dealing in others." Alfred, whom the affection of the nation makes the type of their race, is called by a writer at the Norman conquest, the *truth speaker*, *Alueredus veridicus*. Geoffrey of Monmouth, says of King Aurelius, the uncle of Arthur, that "above all things, he hated a lie." The Northman Guttorm said to King Harald, "it is royal work to fulfil royal words." "To be king of their word is their pride; when they unmask cant they say, 'The English of this is.' The phrase of the lowest of the people is 'honour bright,' and their vulgar praise, 'his word is as good as his bond.'" *

And we may see this once more in their common temper and manner. They are so fearful of insincerity that they prefer to be brusque; and so dread the common hollowness of mere sentimental display that they put on and cultivate a surface cold and indifferent in the extreme, as amid the tropical exuberance of vegetation around them, the hot heart of Ætna or Vesuvius covers and conceals itself with snow. It has been said, and truly, that the English generally do not yield diplomatists of the highest class. They

* See Emerson's *English Traits*; also Sharon Turner's *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, Book V, Chapter 5, and Laing's *Heimskringla*, Vol. I., p. 274. Harald Haarfager's Saga,

are far surpassed by others in the arts of finesse and disguise. And yet through their balance and firmness, their persistency and courage, they win more often than they lose. It is, again, their constitutional fear of unreality that makes them suspicious of eloquence; and they require, especially of their legislators and in public affairs, that when a man speaks he shall speak briefly and directly to the thing.

Now it is this solid, robust, vigorous nature, strong in conviction and in purpose, which supplies the natural foundation for the other qualities which belong to, and mark this people, and which, moreover, especially fits them for their appointed work in the world.

I observe as a second great characteristic of the English race, the love of law and of liberty, of liberty in order, and of order in liberty.

If we turn again to their early history we find the outlines of this character in the very beginning of their life. Tacitus, who was one of the first writers who speaks of them, describes them as a race of landowners and landtillers, freeholders and freemen. A feature which strongly marked them, as the Roman historian informs us, was their hatred of cities, their love of their forest-homes, and their sturdy spirit of independence. "It is well known," he says, "that none of the German tribes inhabit cities, or even allow contiguous settlements. They dwell scattered and separate, as a spring, a meadow, or a grove may attract them. They lay out their villages, not as we do, in rows of connected dwellings; but every one surrounds his house with a vacant space."*

* Tacitus, *Germania*, XVI.

this jealous love of independence was true of the individuals, so it was true of the several communities. Each little settlement maintained its own rights and privileges, and would allow of no interference with these by any other. Moreover, "the actual sovereignty within the settlement resided in the body of its freemen. The man of noble blood enjoyed no legal privilege above his fellows." Again, "their homesteads clustered round a moot-hill, or round a sacred tree, where the whole community met to administer its own justice, and to frame its own laws. Here, too, the 'Witan,' the wise men of the village, met to settle questions of peace and war, to judge just judgment, and frame wise laws, as their descendants, the wise men of a later England, meet in Parliament at Westminster, to frame laws and do justice for the great Empire which has sprung from the little body of farmer commonwealths in Sleswick."*

But, be it observed, under this state of things, the foundation of society was laid both in order and freedom, in conservatism and in independence. The free landholder was the foundation on which rested government and society. Thus a personal interest in the very soil made the early Englishman conservative, and a lover of order. And yet he was a *free man*, and would brook illegal domination from no one. He was "the free-necked man," whose neck submitted to no yoke. And he was "the weaponed man," who claimed the right to bear arms, and bore them.† Whatever his obligations to the community,

*Green's *History of the English People*, p. 4.

†Green's *History of the English People*, p. 21.

or his duty under the laws which he himself had helped to frame, he fell back in the last resort, upon his own individuality, and was ready to maintain his rights against all comers.

Thus in the very morning of their history we find the evidences of the existence of these twin sentiments—the love of order, and the love of liberty—as it were in the very blood of this English race. And their whole subsequent history seems to have been an outgrowth from these, and to have reacted upon them. With one great exception, the development of the national government and life has been with a fair balance, and equable forward movement. It has been a gradual evolution marked, except in the single instance referred to, by no great cataclysms or catastrophes. And yet, on the other hand, from the beginning to the end, what sturdy manliness and vigorous independence! What constant loyalty and yet ever enlarging liberty! It is the same thing under Danish or under Norman rulers, under Edward or Red William, under the first Henry or under John, under Charles or under James, under George or under Victoria. They will destroy ruthlessly neither established institutions nor laws, but they will yield a slavish obedience neither to Pope nor to King.

But I observe as a third great characteristic of the English people, the fact that they are a religious people. Laborious toilers upon land and sea, warriors stern and remorseless in war, there was yet another side to the English temperament which laid them open to the appeals of Christianity, viz :—"its sense of the vague, vast mystery of the world and of

man, its revolt against the narrow bounds of experience and life." This came to them again with the subtle influences of their blood. And so from the day when Augustine landed in England, on the very spot where Hengist had disembarked with his pirates one hundred and fifty years before, down through all their history, the English have been distinguished as a religious people. But their religion, be it observed, has always been strongly marked and coloured by the natural qualities of the race. It was so even through the long years of the Romish domination. They would be a people of faith; but they would be also, and no less, a people exercising, as of right, their God-given understandings, and loyal only to the truth. They will be obedient to authority; but, even in the case of the Pope, it must be authority ruling by agreement, and itself subject to the limitations of law. I need not tell you how, again and again, the people, with their bishops at their head, withstood not only the tyranny of their Kings, but the attempted tyranny of the Popes. If in those earlier years they sometimes failed, they at least showed the stuff whereof they were made. Their religion, moreover, partook of the strong, earnest, positive quality of their nature. Especially from the time of Henry I, when the masses of the English people had become thoroughly leavened with its life, it became a matter of individual concern, a religion of earnest devotion, and personal self-sacrifice. As a consequence, religion with this people, as has never been the case with their Celtic neighbours, has always been a thing of popular ferment and debate. When

we object to this, as some among us are apt to do, we object to the finest token of its reality and life. Their temper, here as everywhere else, is to get at the foundation of things, to possess the very facts of the case. They will be able, if they can, to give a reason for the hope that is in them. If they are to be obedient, they must know why they are to obey. And thus what we call "the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century," and are wont to ascribe to the doings or opinions, the sins or ambitions of rulers and kings, was, in fact, but the culmination of a process that had been moving onward and upward through long centuries before. These are, and have been, the constant qualities, under all hindrances and disadvantageous conditions, of the religion of the English; qualities which carry religion into the profound places of our nature, and which make the English, when they are religious, the most thoroughly religious people of the world.

And now, having thus seen the great characteristics, natural and moral, of this English people, let us look briefly at the results which these have produced; let us see the work which they have done in the world, and which, as we believe, God fitted and intended them to do.

First of all, they have been the discoverers, explorers, and, above all, the colonizers of the world. That first short journey from Jutland to Britain was but the opening stage in a progress which was to be measured only by the circle of the globe. Their first rude Baltic boats were but the germs of countless fleets of ships and steamers, whitening the deep with their

sails, or spreading their banner of cloud on every sea, and carrying the commerce of England to every quarter of the world. And with their commerce have gone their religion and their civilization, their literature and their laws, Turn to the map, and the point of your finger shall cover the place of their beginning. Ask for their Empire, and more than three hundred millions of voices from every continent, and from the farthest islands of the sea, shall answer "IT IS HERE!" Nay, this England has been, and is yet to be, a mother of nations—daughters worthy of such a mother, which shall vie with her in every honourable struggle for wealth and power, and which shall best honour themselves as they honour her. No other people have done such work, for no other was fitted to do it. The field of the labours assigned to them has been in some other direction. Their contributions to the sum of human happiness have been different in kind. The work of this English people has been, and is, to lay the foundations, and to trace the broad lines upon which hereafter are to rise the future empires of the world.

But, next, this English race are the apostles to mankind of the great truth of the possible harmonious combination of Liberty and Law. Not of Law without Liberty. The Romans taught men Law; but the Roman Law remained in many a state, and in Rome itself, where the citizens were slaves. Not of Liberty without Law. Many a people has tried that experiment, and has found it to lead through fire and blood, and to end in slavery at last. But of *combined Liberty and Law*,—Liberty conditioned and

protected by Law, Law interpreted in the light of Liberty, and empowered by that subtle and eternal force. It is by reason of this divine apostleship that England and America exercise, to-day, so mighty an influence in every quarter of the globe, and that this influence moves forward continually under many flags other than their own. The problem of the due combination and fair balance and interplay of these two—Liberty and Law—has been solved, or, with whatever failures and shortcomings, is being solved for mankind by this vicarious race; and, under whatever mere outward forms or accidents of government, the essential truth will, assuredly, presently be learned. The world has been taught that Liberty and Law are twin children of their father, and that their father is God.

But a third office and work of this English people is the demonstration that the religion of Christ is a robust, manly, and heroic religion. They have demonstrated the fact that Christianity does not require mankind either to be dupes, abdicating the use of their understandings, or slaves yielding up the simplest natural rights which belong to them as men. It seems strange, indeed, that it should be necessary at this day to contend, in view of all that it has done, that the direct and legitimate effect of Christianity is to make men free, and strong, and brave. The finest workers, and the greatest benefactors of the race, the heroes and the martyrs of the Christian centuries, have received their baptism of grace and power at its hands. But if it be still contended that vigour of thought cannot co-exist with the simplicity of faith; that manli-

ness of character must die out under dutiful obedience; that, in one word, men cannot be men in the very highest and noblest meaning of that term, and yet be Christians; then, amidst whatever contradictions, I point to the history, the growth and development intellectual and moral, whether as individuals or as a nation, through a thousand years, of this English people. I know that there have been English deniers of their Lord in the past, as there are in the present; men who, in their day, imagined that they had finally and forever exploded Christianity—you go now to find their names and their works in the effete literature of old libraries; but the great living and moving body of the people have always, as we have seen, been profoundly religious, and have had their native strength compacted and directed by their religion. Do not misunderstand me. I do not say that there are not many pages in the long history of this English people stained with sin, and even soiled with dishonour. I forget neither the criminalities and failures of monarchs nor of Parliaments, the impurities of more than one court, the opium war with China, the selfish battle for the Crescent against the Cross, the base desertion of Sleswick Holstein. But I am speaking neither of kings nor of governments. I am speaking of the great, vast, onward-moving mass of the people—the ocean to which these are but the mere drift-wood and the corrupting waifs that presently are submerged and sink out of sight; and of this people of England it has been, and is, true—true in an ever wider and deeper sense—that they are a religious people, and that they have demonstrated, and are demonstrating

to the world, that men can be free and yet believing, religious and yet strong, and true, and brave.

And now what of the destiny of this people? We hear a good deal said, at times, of the decay of England, and it is freely prophesied that her pathway hereafter must be downward to an utter loss of her old prestige and power. It is quite safe to say that in all these prophecies the wish is father to the thought. And yet it is quite possible, nay more, it is even probable, that the time may at length come when the proud and strong England of to-day may find her powers to fail, and may lose her high position among the nations of the world. Other great peoples have thus perished. Assyria, Babylonia, Greece, and Rome, they once shone resplendent upon the earth, great in art, in literature, and in arms; but their busy multitudes have long since been dissolved into dust, and except in their influences they exist for us only as interesting studies of the past. The fact of the gradual rise and fall of nations seems indeed to be determined by a constant law both of nature and of providence. And so it may be with this England of ours whose morning drum now beats unceasingly the westward march of the sun as he makes his daily circuit of the globe. She too may fall from her proud position, and be remembered only as one of the great powers that have been.

But two things are to be said in limitation.

In the first place, moral forces never die, and right moral forces are conservative alike of nations and of men. It will not perhaps hold true in every case, but it certainly is generally true, that no nation has ever

perished from simply external or physical causes. The weakness and the ruin have come, in almost every instance, from within. The Roman Empire had fallen long years before the German hordes swept down upon it to complete and emphasize its ruin. Luxury and effeminacy, the decay of all the manly virtues, had already sapped the strength which once had made conquest of the world. So long, therefore, as the salt of those great moral qualities which hitherto have distinguished them shall remain in the English people, we have a right to expect that they will maintain their high position among mankind. Great powers, both in ancient and modern times, have arisen suddenly, and as suddenly have disappeared. But purely natural causes will wholly explain neither the one class of facts nor the other. The key to history must be sought elsewhere. It is God, we must believe, as we are divinely taught, that "putteth down one, and setteth up another." And so we are justified in believing that the people which has the Lord for its God, which makes His law the law of its life, which in its individuals, and so in its mass, is strong, and earnest, and brave, and true, will continue to exist, doing the work for God and for man which there is always for every such people to do, and so winning authority and blessing for itself.

But if, nevertheless, there is a constant law laid upon all nations which binds them to decay—some necessity in the divine economy of the world which we cannot now understand; and if therefore this world-wide Empire of to-day must, in its turn, cease as such to exist, yet it shall continue to live, as no

other nation has ever lived, in its vast and healthful influences, and above all, in the many daughter-nations to which it has given birth. Rome still lives among us in its laws; Greece in its literature and art. The Latin language—the language of Virgil and Cicero and Horace—constitutes the basis of most of the more cultivated and most used forms of our modern speech. The thought of Greece—of Plato and Aristotle—not only influences our present thought, but helps to determine for us the very laws by which we may rightly think. And so it will be of a once mighty and glorious England that, as a nation, has ceased to exist. Out of its “wells of English undefiled” shall flow, as even now there flows, the language that is to dominate all the other languages of the world. The vast and noble literature which it has created shall continue to instruct and to animate other generations far distant from our own. The brilliant host of teachers which speak to us through it,—scholars, philosophers, statesmen, and divines,—shall continue through it to instruct the world long after the present shall have faded into the past. The poets that sing in our ears shall arouse or soothe the hearts of countless millions who are yet unborn.

So, too, the laws of England, its methods of wise procedure, the principles of justice and liberty which it has determined and established, shall furnish both the models and the inspiration to all its descendants in every age and in every quarter of the globe, and even to other nations who own not this descent, and do not speak the English tongue.

But while all this is true, I mean far more than this. England, I repeat, will live as no other nation has

ever lived, in the mighty progeny of nations that has gone forth from her side. The strong blood out of which has come the acted history of a thousand years flows with as vigorous a pulse, and will continue to flow long ages hence, in America and Australia, in India and Canada, in New Zealand and the far scattered isles of the eastern and western seas. All these shall arise, each in its time and place, in its attained power and glory, and call England blessed. It shall live in all their added years. It shall still be glorious in all their glory. So that even if it be indeed true that darkness is to gather in its sky, and the deep darkness to come down upon its path, yet shall its setting be as the setting of the sun, which shall awaken a whole vast system of planets into light.

What then is the duty of every man who is a partaker in this great inheritance—this trust for the world? The answer suggests itself at once. To be strong, to be brave, to be just, to be true, to love liberty and yet to love law, to love law and yet to love liberty. To enshrine in his heart, as the rule of his life and as the measure of his ambition, that peculiarly English, that grand and golden word, DUTY. And above all, as ensuring all, to love God, to honour and serve Him. An irreligious Englishman is a bastard in the race. It is God, let us never forget, who rules the world and sways the destinies of mankind. It is His power only that increases. His blessing only that blesses. It has been by acknowledging and serving Him that England has come to be what she is; as she shall continue to do so, or shall cease to do so, will be determined what she is to be.

The hymn, "Hark! hark, my soul! angelic songs are swelling," was then sung, and the services were concluded with a prayer and the benediction by Rev. Dr. RICHARD NEWTON.

Monday, April 24th, 1876.

The Society held its regular quarterly business meeting at 10 o'clock, A. M., at which the usual reports were read. Twenty-three members were elected and two proposed for membership. A large amount of business was transacted incident to the opening of the new Hall. The meeting adjourned at 1 o'clock to meet at 5 o'clock, to celebrate the one hundred and fourth anniversary of the Society, the following account of which is taken from the *Evening Telegraph* of April 25th:

ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY.

THE ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

*Dedication Banquet at the New Hall Last Evening—
Eloquent Speeches by the British Consul, the Centennial Commissioners, Judge Thayer, Ex-Governor Curtin, Ex-Mayor Fox, Colonel Forney and others.*

The Society of the Sons of St. George, so well identified with the commercial, the industrial and the charitable interests of this city for the last century,

held their one hundred and fourth anniversary last evening, in the new and handsome edifice now become one of the features of the city, St. George's Hall, Thirteenth and Arch streets.

The premises were elegantly decorated, both externally and internally, Sully's well-known portrait of the Queen having a prominent position over the rostrum. The allegorical embellishments of the ceilings, the marble pillars, and the general finish of this building, together with the beautiful display of silk and bunting, render it perhaps the handsomest public hall in the city.

The banquet, of which at least two hundred participated, consisted of all the delicacies of the season, and was most successful, perhaps unsurpassed for the elegance of appointments and the wealth and intelligence present.

*Among the invited guests were the British Consul, the Vice-Consul, the English and Colonial Commissioners, the United States Commissioners, the Hon. Mr. FRENCH, of the British Legation; General PATERSON, ex-Governor CURTIN, ex-Mayor FOX; Judges SHARSWOOD, THAYER and PEIRCE; the Right-Rev. WM. BACON STEVENS, D. D.; H. G. JONES, Esq., CHARLES WARBURTON, Esq., GEORGE W. CHILDS, Esq., Mr. DEXTER, of London, and several of the clergy.

President MASSEY called the meeting to order, and requested WM. UNDERDOWN, the active and efficient Secretary, to read his condensed report. This inter-

* Letters of regret were read from President Grant, Sir Edward Thornton, K. C. B., H. B. M. Minister at Washington, and other distinguished gentlemen.

esting paper stated that in 1866 the number of members was but 212; in 1872 the total amounted to 384; in 1875 the membership was 580; and in 1876 the grand total was 660. During the past year \$5,300 had been received for charitable purposes, and out of this sum 1,365 cases had been relieved, 1,157 homeless Englishmen had been provided with meals and lodgings, and 92 sent to New York, besides a large number returned to England.

Mr. MASSEY announced the first toast of the evening:

“The Day we Celebrate”—The brave and gentle spirit of St. George has a lasting place in our hearts and memories; he will soon have a noble monument in our Hall--*the first in America.*

LEWIS THOMPSON, Esq., responded to this sentiment in a feeling and eloquent speech. He said that the Sons of St. George had been talking about the building of a hall for over one hundred years, and the final accomplishment showed the determined spirit of the British character. He had always said, “Let us have a hall, and let us have St. George and the dragon. But why the dragon? St. George would be quite sufficient without the zoological appendage. He was glad to know that there would soon be in front of the hall an equestrian statue which would not only be an honor to Philadelphia, but would set a commendable example by showing how foreigners perpetuated the memory of their patron saints.”

An extemporaneous poem appropriate to the occasion, was then recited by Rev. WILLIAM NEWTON, eliciting loud applause.*

*See Poem on page 70.

The two next toasts, "The Queen," and "The President of the United States,"

were drunk with all the honours, after which "God Save the Queen," and "The Star Spangled Banner," were sung with a full chorus.

The fourth toast—"Her Majesty's Representative in America,"

was responded to by CHARLES E. K. KORTRIGHT, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul. During the twenty years of his service in America, he had witnessed numerous events fraught with the deepest interest to the welfare and the prosperity of the United States, many of which are indelibly enrolled on the pages of its history. He had witnessed the crisis of 1857; the fratricidal war which all deplored; the loss of the great and good President Lincoln, who, with one stroke of the pen, liberated 4,000,000 of slaves, and the final integrity of the Union. Mr. KORTRIGHT eloquently referred to the representatives of the trade, the commerce, and the industries of the mother country and her far-extended colonies, and to the foreign commissioners who have come here with their talents, their energies, and their zeal to further the success of the great International Exhibition. "I look around this noble Hall," said the speaker, "a monument of what Britons and the descendants of Britons can accomplish, and I see among the many banners here displayed two in close union, the Cross of St. George and the Star Spangled Banner. Aye, as long as they are united, civil and religious

liberty will have their sway, and hence, harmony and good-will must reign among the nations." The speaker was greeted with long continued applause.

The fifth toast—"England, land of our first love, home of our fathers."

"Long, long in hut and halls,
May hearts of native proof be rear'd
To guard thy hallow'd walls,"

was responded to by Professor ARCHER, of the British Commission. The Professor pictured England as reaching to every land, and as living on every sea, and the gathering of the evening was a perfect evidence that the love of old England can never die out so long as there is a single drop of her blood remaining. (Cheers.) The Professor referred to the Centennial Exhibition, and his presence here, taking as much pride in its success as the American nation. He had been brought for the first time fairly face to face with the Americans, and he admired their energies and their intelligence.

He paid a fitting tribute to the managers of the Centennial Exhibition, congratulating the country on having placed the right men in the right place, who are conducting the great enterprise to an unbounded success. (Applause.)

The sixth toast—"The United States of America—fair land of our adoption." May truth, justice and true liberty triumph over all opposing influences, and thy future be made glorious in all that pertains to the well-being of man.

This sentiment was responded to by Colonel JOHN W. FORNEY in his most eloquent and stirring manner.

Tracing the history and power of the United States, he was impressed with the sentiment of unity. We have a united Germany, a united Italy, a united Kingdom, and the United States, and it is in this unity, this bond which is peace and harmony, that nations become successful and prosperous. The speaker paid a grateful tribute to the Queen, and declared that Americans could never forget that in the terrible civil war, in which the life of the nation seemed to hang in the balance, the Union cause was indebted for much of its triumph to her Gracious Majesty, who grandly declared that she would do nothing to injure a nation struggling to secure the abolition of human slavery.

The seventh toast—"Pennsylvania;" born under peaceful influences, she is truly great in her peaceful industries.

Ex-Governor CURTIN responded to this sentiment in a most powerful speech. Pennsylvania, if peaceful in her birth and peaceful in her industries, has never been, and never will be, found lacking in the hour of peril.

She has shed her blood on more than one occasion in the nation's hour of peril, and in every case of necessity she will be found in the front.

The Americans had inherited a great deal from their English ancestors. The little island called England could almost be said to control the world. But this came not from kings or Parliament, but from the Anglo-Saxon blood which moved ever onward in spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Continuing, the speaker said: "What do you here, you

Englishman? Your great country owes you a living and you come here to secure it. But what makes your country great? It is the middle class which manufactures your products and makes your commerce, which fills your armies and throngs your mines and factories." The Americans offered for English consideration two truths: First, that all men were born equal; and second, that every man had an account to settle with his Maker. He remembered very well when it was his privilege to represent his country in a foreign nation, and he also remembered meeting in Europe an accomplished old gentleman who for many years hoped for a uniform system of coins throughout the world. The old gentleman attended a convention at one time, and on his return was asked what hope he had of attaining his object. He replied, "None. The French will stick to their francs, the English cannot give up their pounds, shillings and pence, and the Americans say, 'Ask me to forget my God, but don't ask me to throw away the almighty dollar.'" Still, the speaker did not think the Americans were quite so bad as that, although he admitted that this very love for the almighty dollar and the pounds, shillings and pence, had had much to do with the wonderful progress which both countries had made. We had some things to be proud of and some reason for it. We had a few mines, some ships on the ocean, a few manufactures. The coming Centennial would undoubtedly do much for the country, but to other nations could be shown, not only our products of art, science and industry, but one hundred years of freedom and equality.

The eighth toast—"Philadelphia, City of Homes, points proudly to the Centennial Buildings, and invites the world to come and see that peace hath her victories more glorious than war."

Mayor Fox was called upon, and in his responsive address said that Philadelphia, instead of being "slow," as it had been charged, had demonstrated an energy which was an honor to the nation. More than that, the city, in addition to providing almost unaided a spot on which the world would assemble, was anxious to stretch out her arms in friendship and receive all visitors, not as strangers whose presence might prove profitable, but as kinsmen to be kindly cared for and hospitably entertained. The speaker regarded the picture of the representatives of two of the greatest nations of the earth sitting quietly down, and like Christian men talking over and adjusting the differences which might otherwise have led to a terrible war, as the grandest spectacle of modern times, and the brotherly spirit would be still further cultivated in the Centennial Exhibition so soon to open.

Ninth toast—"The Armies and Navies of the United States and Great Britain. The unbounded sea and every land bear testimony to their courage and heroism."

Responded to by General PATTERSON in his usual happy vein.

"Tenth toast—"The Centennial Commissioners—their work speak for them,"

was eloquently responded to by JOHN WELSH, Esq., who, after alluding to the seeming hopelessness of

the task which they had attempted to perform, and speaking of the difficulties one by one overcome, said that all the commissioners now asked, on the verge of the great consummation, was that their works should speak for them.

Eleventh and Twelfth toasts—"The English Commissioners," and the "Centennial Commissioners,"

were responded to by Colonel SANFORD, R. E., and Mr. DAVENPORT, a commissioner from Australia. These gentlemen were greeted with the most rapturous applause. Colonel SANFORD favorably compared the Centennial Exhibition with the exhibitions of the Old World, and eloquently spoke of the nerve, the energy, the power and the integrity of the English population in Philadelphia. He spoke of the noble structure of St. George's Hall, and in a beautiful tribute to the Queen declared that her Majesty would be handsomely represented in the Woman's Pavilion. (Cheers.)

Mr. DAVENPORT made one of the most impressive and eloquent speeches of the evening, referring to the magnificence of many of America's harbors, her grand mountains, her boundless plains, her luxurious homes, her industry and the energy of her people, their hospitality and their virtues. He was greeted with prolonged applause.

The remaining toasts—"The Pulpit," "The Bench," "The Bar," and "The Press,"

were also eloquently responded to by the Rev. Mr. NEWKIRK, Hon. M. RUSSELL THAYER, MACGREGOR J.

MITCHESON, Esq., and JOHN T. DEXTER, of London, and we regret that the pressure upon our space to-day prevents our giving full reports of them.

“Woman — earth’s brightest jewel—as Paradise was, so is home incomplete without her.”

was poetically and pathetically replied to by WM. WATERALL, Esq., in his well-known happy vein.

The meeting adjourned at a late hour.

POEM

DELIVERED ON THE OPENING OF THE NEW HALL,

By REV. WILLIAM NEWTON, D. D.,

April 24th, 1876.

Sons of St. George ! We are here,
Our states, our prospects to review ;
To speak again those words of cheer
The season bids us to renew ;
A fond and lingering glance to cast
Upon the records of the Past ;
And, with a rainbow-visioned hope,
Draw out our future horoscope !
Nor is this hard, indeed. For who,
That from the shadowy Past
Calls up the *Present* into view,
Can fail a glance to cast
Into the far beyond, and trace
Our future from the smiling face
Our present wears ? This beauteous hall—
These thronging members—how they stand
In striking contrast with the small,
Yet earnest and devoted band,
That answered first their country's call,
To meet in their adopted land,
And from their straitened means to bless
Their countrymen in their distress !
This picture rises to our view,
In seventeen hundred seventy-two ;
When, if it pleases you to turn
To the old records, you will see
The tavern of one Peter Byrne,

On Front street, below Walnut, earn
 The honor of nativity
 To our St. George's! *There* its birth
 Placed it among those things of earth,
 That, scattering blessings as they go,
 Seek to diminish human woe ;
 To stretch a kind and friendly hand
 To those who, helpless, cannot stand ;
 To raise the fallen, and to win
 The erring from the paths of sin.
 There too, its one baptismal sign
 Was added, in those words divine,
 "*I was a stranger and ye took me in !*"

And *who* were they, who in these hours
 Of weakness, took the sponsor's place,
 And to this infant band of ours
 Gave its appointed name of grace ?
Peters, that honored name which still
 Has power our peoples' hearts to thrill—
Morris and Penn, who, side by side,
 Our nation's loyalty divide !
 Youthful in years, of figure slight,
 And then, unknown to fame,
 Stood with them, one, whom here to-night,
 High up on history's scroll we write ;
 And for the name of *William White*,
 Our Church's Washington, the peer
 Of those who stood the loftiest here,
 Your love and reverence claim.
 With silvery locks and forehead high,
 Of genial face and thoughtful eye,
 The hero of that glorious thought,
 That from the skies the lightning brought,
Franklin, the Patriot Sage, appears,
 Unconscious of the fame,
 Which, in the silent course of years,
 Still gathers 'round his name.
These were our sponsors, and to-day
 We own their sponsorship, and pay

A fitting tribute to their worth ;
 Rejoicing thus, that at our birth,
 Such honored names preside,
 Names worthy of the place they fill
 In human history, and our still
 Increasing love and pride.

We meet again to-night, and turn
 To fairer scenes than Peter Byrne
 Could, in his day, supply.
 This splendid hall ! This thronging band
 Of members, which on every hand
 Attracts the wondering eye !
 Attests the growth which now appears,
 To crown our *First One Hundred Years* !
 And, therefore, on this festive night,
 When joyous spirits hail the sight
 That rises to our view,
 We gladly hail the impulse right
 That yields the honor due
 To those whose skill and tireless care,
 Availed this building to prepare
 For you, who grace it now !
 And in your name we here declare,
 That they are worthy all to wear
 The wreath which now, with honor, rare,
 We place upon their brow.
 Thompson and Massey—Lucas, too—
 The great triumvirate, whom here,
 Gladly we bring before your view,
 And ask a Briton's hearty cheer,
 To ring out, in this noble hall,
 Your glad approval of them all !
 But since—without a fraud, .
 The honest truth may be confessed—
 The foremost honors still must rest
 On Thompson's shoulders broad.
 And sure they're broad enough to bear
 Whatever weight you'll venture there
 Of gratitude to place.

And though not much to *running* given,
 Yet of the three—all starting even—
He's fairly won the race !

But graver thoughts our notice claim,
 And while the pulse beats high,
 We turn with reverent air to name
 Our dead, and yield the sigh
 O'er their departed worth. The chair
 Which you, sir, fill, last year
 Was filled by one with name as fair
 As is the foremost here !

Allen—upon whose honored head,
 For more than eighty years were shed
 Time's whitening harvests ; we shall keep
 His memory with us green,
 Nor let his recollection sleep,
 Though *he* no more be seen.
 For forty years and more, our roll
 Displayed his name upon its scroll,
 In varying grades of trust ;
 None more than he our order loved,
 None more than he in all things proved
 Faithful, and true, and just.

Once more, up from the shadowy past,
 We lift the veil that time has cast
 Above our honored dead, and see
 Beneath it, slumbering peacefully,
 Our aged Messenger, who bore
 The weight of ninety years and four.
 Peace to their ashes, let them sleep,
 Each in his place of rest,
 While we, their name and memory keep
 Fragrant within our breast.

All hail to this Centennial Year,
 That bids the distant nations hear,
 And to our borders come ;
 To mark the triumphs we have won,

And what one hundred years have done
For this our western home.

We greet them all with hearty cheer,

But with the patriot's boast,

Yield the first place to brethren here,

From England's rock bound coast,

Our honored guests to-night. And we

Rejoice in the fraternity,

That, mingling thus, empowers

Each, glorying in the other's fame,

And yielding every rightful claim

Of honor to the other's Name—

To say, *That Name is ours.*

We share the honors it has won,

And all its deeds of greatness done,

We with our own combine ;

And England's banner waving free

Shall with the flag of liberty,

In loving folds entwine ;

Each floating in the other's light,

And stronger with the other's might,

Shall in its lustre shine.



THE Board of Directors regret that the bronze equestrian statue of St. George and the Dragon could not be finished and placed in its position over the portico of the Hall before the close of the Centennial Exhibition. The delay has been caused by Messrs. ELKINGTON, of England, having to make a model expressly for the statue. When finished it will be a fine work of art, and a great ornament to our city.

It is hoped that it will be completed and in position early in coming year.

All of which the undersigned Committee respectfully submit.

LEWIS THOMPSON,
WILLIAM WATERALL,
WILLIAM H. LUCAS,
SAMUEL LEES,
JOHN J. DOVEY.

The President, Wm. MASSEY, and Secretary, Wm. UNDERDOWN, on motion, were added to the Committee.

